

NAIS Frequently Asked Questions:

Premises Registration

Q. What is premises registration?

A. Premises registration, the foundation of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS), is an effort to establish a complete record of all locations in the United States where livestock and/or poultry are raised, held, or boarded. Premises registration is fundamental to containing animal diseases. During the registration process, you provide basic contact information for your premises and obtain a unique identification number for that location. This information ensures that you will be notified quickly if a disease outbreak or animal health event occurs in your area. USDA maintains only limited premises registration information and will protect individuals' private information from disclosure. Voluntarily registering your premises does not obligate you to participate in the other components of NAIS (animal identification and animal tracing). You decide, based on your needs, to participate in one, two, or all three components of NAIS.

Q. What is a premises?

A. In general, a premises is a location where livestock and/or poultry are raised, held, or boarded. Examples include farms, ranches, markets, exhibitions, and slaughtering facilities. These are only basic guidelines. There is no one size fits all" definition of a premises. Producers should consult State and local animal health authorities in their areas if they have questions regarding how their premises fit into NAIS.

Q. Am I required by law to register my premises?

A. NAIS is a voluntary program at the Federal level. You are not required by USDA to register your premises. Individual States may choose to keep premises registration voluntary or not, based on local needs. USDA strongly believes that the best approach to premises registration is a voluntary system led by the States.

Q. Why should I register my premises?

A. In an animal health emergency, no one can help you protect your animals if they don't know you are there. The basic contact information provided during premises registration opens the lines of communication between producers and animal health officials. Registering your premises means that you will be alerted quickly when there is a potential

threat to your animals. This gives you more control over the health and marketability of your animals. You have the information and assistance you need to take action and protect your animals and your investment against disease spread. Besides—registering your premises is free. It's a quick and simple process. And Federal law protects individuals' private information and confidential business information from disclosure.

Q. How do I register my premises?

A. You can register your premises by contacting your State or Tribal NAIS Administrator for the appropriate form. A list of the State NAIS Administrators is available at www.usda.gov/nais. Premises registration forms are also available on each State's department of agriculture Web site. You may opt to register your premises online, or by mailing or faxing the form to the NAIS contact for your area.

Q. What information do I have to provide to register my premises?

A. When registering your premises, you will be asked to provide the following information:

- Name of the entity
- Appropriate contact person
- Street address/city/state/zip code for the premises
- Contact phone number
- Operation type (production unit, market, exhibition, slaughter plant, etc.)
- Alternative phone number(s)

This is the basic contact information USDA recommends for registering premises. However, premises registration is carried out by the States and Tribes. Each may have its own additional information requests for premises registration, based on local needs.

Additional Information

For more information about NAIS, contact:

USDA, APHIS Veterinary Services
4700 River Road, Unit 43
Riverdale, Maryland 20737-1231
Telephone (301) 734-0799
Fax (301) 734-7964
www.usda.gov/nais

Your Animals. Your Livelihood. Your Future. Your NAIS.